ARC-OVER

Turlock Amateur Radio Club (T.A.R.C.)

W6BXN

www.w6bxn.org

147.030 + PL 100.0

February 2025

The next general club meeting is Tuesday February 11, 2025, at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA 95380. There will be an amateur radio testing session at 6:00 pm. The doors will open for the regular meeting at 7:00 pm or as soon as the testing session is over.

Amateur
Radio
License
Testing

From the desk of the V.P. and ARC-Over editor:

Lucian KF6NPG

Welcome to the February edition of the ARC-OVER. I hope everyone had a great start to their New Year.

Thanks to Eric for his presentation and the portable J-Pole antenna build.

At this month's meeting there will be a presentation by me on Resources for The Amateur Radio Operator. Ther are many web sites, and YouTube videos available to enhance your amateur radio operating experience. The following are just a few to get you started. Take the time to explore them and I think you will find them useful.

Resources for the Amateur Radio Operator

TARC (Turlock Amateur Radio Club). https://w6bxn.org

SARA (Stanislaus amateur Radio Association). https://saraclub.net

Merced ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) https://mercedares.org

Merced County OES https://www.countyofmerced.com/1599/Office-of-Emergency-Services

Stanislaus ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) https://stanares.org

Stanislaus County OES https://www.stanoes.com/stanemergency

ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) https://www.arrl.org

Winlink Global Radio Email. Gateways can be reached through telnet (internet) or via radio UHF/VHF or HF). https://winlink.org

Wavetalkers is a source for training presentations and other operating resources. https://wavetalkers.com

RATPAC (Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee). This web site has training videos for both emergency communications and general amateur radio operating principles. https://www.ratpac.us

EmComm Training Organization. This is a useful web site to explore amateur radio winlink drills. https://emcomm-training.org

APRS.fi. Internet based APRS map. Available on computer or Android and Apple phones. https://aprs.fi

PinPoint APRS is an internet or RF based APRS map. https://pinpointaprs.com

Ready.Gov is a FEMA web site with general preparedness information. https://www.ready.gov

National Weather Service. https://www.weather.gov

Earthquake early warning phone application for Android or Apple provided by UC Berkeley. https://myshake.berkeley.edu

Alert California is a statewide camera system provided by UC San Diego. https://alertcalifornia.org

Watch Duty is an application for Wildland fire reports. It will work on both Android and Apple phones. https://www.watchduty.org

Broadcastify is a radio scanner application for computers, Android or Apple phone. https://www.broadcastify.com

Web SDR is a web site where you can monitor HF radio locally and from around the world. websdr.org

We are always looking for articles or items of interest for the ARC-OVER. If you have something for the newsletter, please send to info@w6bxn.org .

Message from the Turlock Amateur Radio Club President Eric K7RKU

Positive momentum? Check!

Our board and enthusiastic members have been working on some great changes that will benefit you directly!

At this month's meeting, we'll officially roll out the TARC "Discord server" - created by our tireless Trustee and tech expert Spencer (KJ6ART)! If you're unfamiliar with Discord, it's a free app that allows users to communicate via text, voice, and video. It was originally developed to allow gamers (video game people) to communicate real-time but it's now used by all sorts of groups. We'll be using it to help our members connect - to build camaraderie with folks interested in the same things you are!

Our Discord server will also be open to others in our community who are interested in radio - a chance to show some hospitality and to attract new members. Have a question about tuning an antenna? Want to sell some equipment? Looking to jump in with other members planning a POTA outing? TARC's Discord server is the place!

Could all this be accomplished by radio over the repeater? Well somewhat, yes! Can you jump on the repeater in the waiting room when you have a couple of minutes waiting for a doctor appointment? No! Can you jump on Discord with your phone? Yes! So we see this as an extension of the fellowship we all enjoy with our hobby. Come join us and try it out!

We're also working on reviving the raffle for club meetings, This may be a raffle for a great piece of equipment (new portable antenna anyone? maybe a new HT?) or it may be the time-honored "50:50" split raffle where the winner takes home some cold hard cash! 💰 As they used to say, "you can't win it if you're not in it" so be ready to give it a try! With our new Square thing, we'll be able to accept card payments too so everyone can get in on the action. We're also willing to accept car titles or a second on your house if you want to go big! 😂
So anyway, these couple of new (or revived?) ideas are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of improvements and enhancements we have coming for you as

members! Please thank your board members at the meeting for all their hard work. See you this Tuesday!

Amateur Radio Operators, or "hams," have a long history of serving their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, such as cell phone towers and fiber optic networks. Amateur radio functions completely independent of the internet and phone systems, and a ham radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Amateurs can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® ARES® (www.arrl.org/ares) consists of hams who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. They use their training, skills, and equipment to prepare for and provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. (Courtesy of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League).
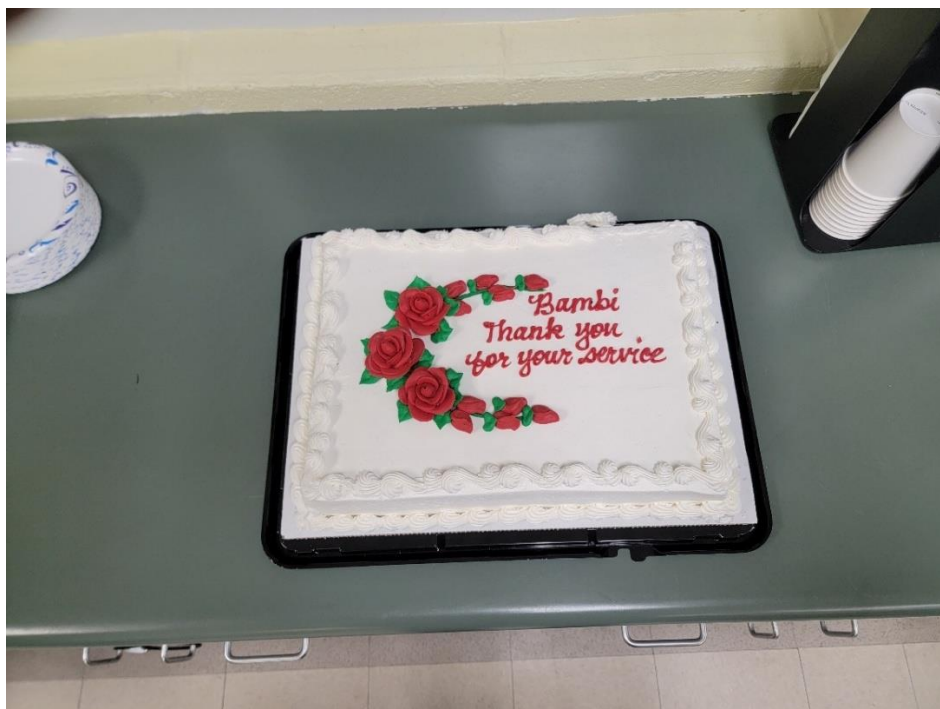
If you are interested in emergency communications and serving the community, please consider joining Merced ARES. They have a weekly radio net on Mondays on the TARC repeater at 7:00 pm. A big thanks to Dinnie N6TLW for running the voice nets. Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory, 3146 G St. Merced, CA. For more information, please contact the Merced ARES Emergency Coordinator, Dave KG6NUO at info@w6bxn.org .

Minutes

No meeting minutes were provided this month.

Special thanks to Bambi KI6YQL who served at the TARC club president for the past 6 years. She continues her service to the club as a board member.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The club will sponsor 5 amateur radio license test sessions in 2025.

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February 11, 2025, April 8, 2025, June 10, 2025, August 12, 2025, and October 14, 2025.

February

Tuesday 11th. Club meeting is at 7:00 pm, doors will open at 7:00 pm, as there will be a ham testing session at 6:00pm. Meeting place as usual at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. There will be a presentation on Resources for the Amateur Radio Operator by Lucian KF6NPG.

Wednesday 19th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

March

Tuesday 11th. Club meeting is at 7:00 pm, doors will open at 6:30 pm, at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation TBA.

Wednesday 19th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

Saturday 22nd 7:00am to 11:00am Loomis Hamfest. Sponsored by the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club. See the attached flyer for more information.

April

Tuesday 8th. Club meeting is at 7:00 pm, doors will open at 7:00 pm, as there will be a ham testing session at 6:00pm. Meeting place as usual at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation TBA.

Wednesday 16th Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

May

Tuesday 13th. Club meeting is at 7:00 pm, doors will open at 6:30 pm. Meeting place as usual at the Salvation Army 893 Lander Ave. Turlock, CA. Presentation TBA.

Wednesday 21st Merced ARES meeting 6:00 pm at the Pizza Factory 3146 G Street Merced, CA.

FLYER

THE FIRST HAM SWAP OF THE YEAR IS COMING!

9TH ANNUAL

LOOMIS HAMFEST

JOIN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATUER RADIO CLUB FOR HAMFEST 2025!

GET YOUR GEAR, GRAB YOUR WALLET, AND GET READY FOR A SUPER SWAP.
WE'LL HAVE COFFEE AND DONUTS, AWESOME PRIZES,
ELMER TOURS, A TEST TABLE, PRESENTATIONS, AND SO MUCH MORE.

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 22ND, 2025
MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND @ HAMFEST.W6EK.ORG

SELLERS $10
SETUP @ 0600

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

TALK IN FREQ
145.130- .600
CTCSS 114.8

WHEN
SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2025
0700 TO 1100 HOURS

PRIZES ANNOUNCED SOON

WHERE
HISTORIC LOOMIS TRAIN DEPOT
5775 HORSESHOE BAR ROAD
LOOMIS, CA

TARC System Nets
- TARC Tuesday Night Net - Tuesdays 7 PM, except for the second Tuesday
- Bacon and Eggs Net - Weekdays 7 AM
- Merced ARES Net - Mondays 7 PM
- San Joaquin Valley Section ARES Net - Sundays 7:30 PM

2025 Dues

You can now join or renew your membership for 2025. Your dues help with paying for the rent and maintenance of the TARC repeater system and club events. If you have not already done so, please consider joining or renewing your club membership. Thanks to everyone who has renewed, joined, or donated to the club. Please include a membership application to help keep our information up to date. Thanks!
- Individual Membership: $25
- Family Membership: $35

Are you receiving TARC emails? If not head over to W6BXN.org and subscribe.

2025 Club Officers

To protect TARC members' personal information, we will no longer post the list of members on the club website. For all club inquiries, including membership status, please send an email to info@w6bxn.org.

President Eric K7RKU	Vice President/ARC-OVER Editor Lucian KF6NPG
Secretary Walter KI6PB	Treasurer Lena KN6VOH
Sergeant at Arms Jerry KN6GJK	Member at Large John N6JCS
Member at Large Bambi KI6YQL	Club Trustee Spencer KJ6ART